

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /025 W

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P 161027Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3679

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 0518

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, UN, AF

SUBJ: COURTESY CALL BY CONGRESSMAN DIGGS ON PM BHUTTO

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO MADE HIMSELF AVAILABLE FOR ABOUT A 45 MINUTE DISCUSSION LAST EVENING WITH VISITING CONGRESSMAN DIGGS AND HIS ASSISTANT, DR. CHALLONER. IT WAS A RELAXED DISCUSSION WITH BHUTTO PARTIALLY GIVING CODEL A BRIEFING ON THINGS IN PAKISTAN WHICH CONTAINED NOTHING REALLY NEW FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

2. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS TALKED ABOUT HIS TRIP THROUGH AFRICA AND HIS PRESENCE DURING THE OAU MEETING ON ANGOLA IN ADDIS ABABA. IN GENERAL HE DID NOT CONDEMN THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA, WHICH I SUSPECT BHUTTO HAD EXPECTED, BUT DWELT MORE UPON THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE PROBLEM THAT HAD BEEN DEVELOPING OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. HE TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE OAU MEETING HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY EFFECTED BY THE CHARGES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION, AND THAT IF THEY WOULD GET OUT THE RUSSIAN POSITION WOULD BECOME MORE EXPOSED AND LESS TOLERABLE TO AFRICAN OPINION.

3. THE DISCUSSION TURNED TO WHAT IS GOING ON AT HOME IN INVESTIGATION OF OUR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, WITH DIGGS MAKING THE POINT THAT SOME OF THE REVELATIONS THAT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED BY THE INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN QUITE SHOCKING. DIGGS SEEMED

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TO BE INQUIRING AS TO WHETHER BHUTTO FOUND THIS

TYPE OF INTERFERENCE INTO THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS WORRISOME. BHUTTO IN REPLY SAID THAT HE LOOKED AT ALL OF IT FROM QUITE A DIFFERENT ANGLE. HIS ARGUMENTATION WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT SUPER POWERS HAD TO PLAY THE SAME BALL GAME AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT HANDICAP OURSELVES TO THE POINT OF LOSING THE GAME TO OTHERS SUCH AS THE RUSSIANS WHO WOULD NEVER EVEN THINK OF SO EXPOSING THEMSELVES IN THE INTELLIGENCE FIELD TO WORLD OPINION. IN AN ASIDE TO ME HE SAID THIS WAS MERELY A MILD PRELUDE TO THE TYPE OF THING HE HOPED TO DISCUSS WITH THE SECRETARY IN NEW YORK ON FEBRUARY 26.

4. DIGGS BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF THE INTERESTING GEO-POLITICAL POSITION OF PAKISTAN, ASKING IN THE END FOR A CANDID STATEMENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AS TO HOW HE LOOKED UPON RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. BHUTTO REVIEWED VERY BRIEFLY THE HISTORY OF OUR RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS, ENDING UP WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THEY WERE VERY GOOD INDEED, BOTH AS REGARDS NATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS HERE IN PAKISTAN. WHEN DIGGS PROBED FOR ANY SPECIFICS THAT MIGHT WORRY BHUTTO, THE LATTER SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE APPARENT TREND IN AMERICA AS EVIDENCED BY RECENT PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS IN THE CONGRESS WHICH WOULD TEND TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR FRIENDS OF AMERICA TO OBTAIN NEEDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND WHICH WOULD ALSO SEEM TO RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY IN THE FUTURE OF FMS CREDITS FOR A COUNTRY LIKE PAKISTAN. DIGGS ADMITTED THAT THE FEELING AGAINST MILITARY SALES WAS GROWING IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT THE MATTER WAS LEFT THERE AS BHUTTO TRIED TO DEFINE AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEM WHICH MIGHT BE LABELED AN "UNCERTAINTY" ABOUT AMERICA AND THE DIRECTIONS IT WOULD TAKE IN THE FUTURE.

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5. BHUTTO SAID HE FULLY APPRECIATED THE DIFFICULTY AMERICA WAS GOING THROUGH IN WHAT HE CALLED A TRANSITION PERIOD. HE SAID IN THE PERIOD OF THE COLD WAR AMERICA SEEMED TO STAND STEADFAST, PRESENTING A GLOBAL IMAGE THAT SEEMED GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD AND COMFORTING TO ITS FRIENDS. NOW THERE SEEMED TO BE A TENDENCY TOWARDS DEBATE WITHIN AMERICA THAT CAUSES OTHERS TO WONDER WHAT GLOBAL STRATEGY WOULD EVENTUALLY PREVAIL, WHETHER IT WOULD BE ON ECONOMIC, STRATEGIC, OR MILITARY MATTERS. THERE WERE QUESTIONS IN THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES, HE ADDED, AS TO HOW FAR DETENTE WOULD GO AND WHAT ROLE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL PLAY IN OUR THINKING IN THIS REGARD. HE SAID HE SUPPOSED IT BOILED DOWN TO A QUESTION OF WHEN AND WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WOULD MAKE UP ITS MIND AS FAR AS OTHER GREAT POWERS WERE CONCERNED IN DECIDING THINGS CAN GO "THIS FAR BUT NO FURTHER." HE SAID ANY RESPONSIBLE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT IN A PLACE SUCH AS PAKISTAN COULD NOT HELP BUT WONDER AS TO WHETHER THEY MIGHT BE OUTFLANKED IN THE INTEREST OF WHAT SOME FELT WAS AN UNCERTAIN GLOBAL STRATEGY AT PRESENT ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES. THERE WAS AN INCONCLUSIVE EXCHANGE ON THE ROLE OF CONGRESS IN SHARING THE GREAT DECISIONS THAT AMERICA MUST MAKE. THROUGHOUT THIS DISCUSSION BHUTTO WAS IN NO WAY BEING UNFRIENDLY, BUT TRYING TO FIND WORDS TO EXPRESS DIPLOMATICALLY SOME OF THE THINGS I HAVE KNOWN HE WONDERS ABOUT. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE THIRNSITION PERIOD FOR US WHICH MAKES FOR UNEASINESS WOULD BEGIN TO PHASE OUT AFTER OUR FORTHCOMING  
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ELECTIONS.

6. INDIRECTLY, AND MORE VAGUELY, BHUTTO SEEMED TO WONDER IF AMERICA AS A GREAT POWER MIGHT DAMAGE RATHER THAN ENHANCE ITS WORLD IMAGE BY "HOT WORDS" IN SUCH FORUMS AS THE UNITED NATIONS DESPITE THE APPARENT POPULARITY OF THIS APPROACH WITH AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. HE SAID HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN GUILTY IN THE PAST OF THIS TACTIC, BUT IT WAS ONE THING FOR A SMALL UNIMPORTANT POWER SUCH AS PAKISTAN TO RESORT TO IT AS THIS DID NOT MUCH

MATTER, BUT ANOTHER THING FOR A GREAT POWER WITH THE  
IMAGE OF THE UNITED STATES. HE ALSO WONDERED IF  
IT WAS USEFUL TO USE IN OUR WORLD RELATIONSHIP TO  
TALK OPENLY ABOUT THINGS LIKE POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC  
RETALIATION IN REACTION TO VOTES IN THE UNITED  
NATIONS WHICH WE DID NOT LIKE. HE SAID WE COULD  
ALWAYS FIND OTHER REASONS FOR DOING WHAT WE  
THOUGHT TO BE IN OUR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS,  
JOKINGLY ADDING THAT IT MIGHT BE BEST IN THE END  
IF WE CONTINUED TO USE JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTIONS  
BASED UPON AN INTRACTABLE CONGRESS OR SOME OTHER  
EASILY DEFINED REASON.  
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